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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Note verbale dated 15 July from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

The Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Committee on Host Country Relations and has the honour to inform him that the American Administration did not grant the required entry visas to the Iraqi delegation that anticipated to participate in the tenth session of the Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court that was held in New York during the period 1-12 July 2002.

The Permanent Mission of Iraq had submitted on 7 June 2002 to the Permanent Mission of the United States of America a request to grant entry visas for Sultan Al-Shawi and Riadh Al-Adhami, and then followed by another request for Asi Al-Falahi on 11 June 2002 to participate in the work of the aforementioned Commission. The work of the Commission ended on 12 July 2002 and the visa has not yet been granted.

The position of the United States constitutes a violation of the Headquarters Agreement signed between the United Nations and the United States of America and also expresses the refusal of the United States to honour its obligations within the General Assembly resolution that reiterated the need for the United States to issue entry visas for Member States within an appropriate time. This act also violates in general all known conventions governing diplomatic privileges and immunities.

Refusing to grant entry visas for Iraqi delegations has become a standard for the American Administration aiming at hindering the work of the Mission and an attempt to deny it the participation in the meetings held within by the United Nations. Therefore, we request the listing of this issue in the next meeting of the Host Country Committee and consider this note an official document of the Committee.

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